

Senate Passes Privacy Bill for U.S. Employees

Measure to Curb
'Big Brotherism'
Is Sent to House

By CECIL HOLLAND ✓
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A measure to protect federal employees from "big brotherism" rested with the House today after overwhelming Senate approval.

If finally approved, the measure would outlaw lie detector and psychological testing and prying personal questions involving sex, religion and family affairs in most of the government's executive agencies.

Limited exceptions would be made for three agencies dealing with the nation's security—the Central Intelligence and National Security Agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Restrictions were placed on these under the Senate bill.

Victory for Ervin

✓ For Sen. Sam D. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., it was a major victory for what he called "the preservation of individual freedom."

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on constitutional rights and chief sponsor of the bill, said the practices the measure would ban were widespread in the government.

CPYRIGHT He was supported by Sen. Roman L. Hruska, R-Neb., who said the subcommittee had received reports of case after case involving "flagrant violations" of the rights of government employees.

After a brief skirmish over exempting the CIA because of its super-secret spy activities, the bill was approved by a vote of 79-4.

Before the vote, Ervin accepted two amendments, approved

by voice votes, that eased the bill through with a minimum of opposition. One involved the CIA and NSA and the other the FBI.

As the bill came to the Senate floor with unanimous approval of the Judiciary Committee, it would have permitted the CIA and NSA to give lie detector and other tests under the specific direction of the directors of those agencies. This was modified so that it would be permitted by the director or "his designee."

Young Proposal

The bill would have exempted the FBI on the ground, as Ervin said, that the agency did not indulge in the practices at which the legislation was directed.

However, Sen. Milton R. Young, R-N.D., proposed an amendment that would wipe out this exemption and place the FBI in the same situation as the CIA and NSA, and with the same limitations. It was approved by a voice vote.

Voting against the bill were Sens. Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., who had just returned to the Senate after an illness with a throat ailment; John Stennis, D-Miss.; James O. Eastland, D-Miss.; and Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C. Their opposition was based, they indicated, on the restriction placed on the CIA.

Both Russell and Stennis are ranking Democratic members of an informal Senate watchdog committee that oversees CIA activities.

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